

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9286

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS - CLERIDES PRESS REMARKS IN

ATHENS ON JUNE 20

1. DURING ATHENS AIRPORT STOPOVER EN ROUTE BACK TO CYPRUS FROM NY ON JUN 20 CLERIDES MET BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS. HIS REMARKS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN ATHENS NEWS MEDIA. CLERIDES IS QUOTED AS NOTING THAT UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON EXTENDING UNFICYP AND ON UNSYG'S REPORT ON VIENNA TALKS GREATLY BENEFITED CYPRUS. HE SAID THE DISCUSSION HAD CLEARLY SHOWN THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WAS PROCRASTINATING AND WAS CONTINUING TO CREATE FAITS ACCOMPLIS. IN ANSWER TO A QUERY ON HIS MEETING WITH SECY KISSINGER CLERIDES REPLIED THAT THE SECRETARY FELT CONCERN THAT THE CYPRUS QUESTION WAS IN SUSPENSE AND OVER THE REPERCUSSIONS WHICH THIS COULD HAVE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. CLERIDES CONTINUED, "I THINK THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE EXISTS A NEED FOR THE US TO EXERCISE CERTAIN PRESSURES. HOW PRODUCTIVE THIS WOULD BE IS A LARGE
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QUESTION WHICH REMAINS UNANSWERED."

2. RESPONDING TO OTHER QUESTIONS, CLERIDES NOTED THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT NO PROGRESS WHATEVER HAD BEEN MADE ON QUESTION OF THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES AND THAT TURKISH FORCES WERE DEPLOYED IN A MANNER CONSTITUTING A THREAT TO THE REMAINDER OF THE ISLAND. EARLIER CLERIDES POINTED OUT THAT TURKEY INSTEAD OF COMPLYING WITH THE UN RESOLUTIONS WAS EXPLOITING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN ITS FORCES IN CYPRUS. HE SAID POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED THE RESOLUTIONS REFERENCE TO THE "GOVT OF CYPRUS" AND ITS CALLING ON TURKEY TO PROCEED WITH THE RAPID AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL UN RESOLUTIONS.

3. CLERIDES CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS SAYING THAT THE OUTCOME OF VIENNA III WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER THE TURKISH SIDE WOULD ABANDON ITS PROCRASTINATION AND PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS. CLERIDES ADDED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD TOLD HIM THAT IF NO PROGRESS IS REGISTERED AT THE VIENNA TALKS, THE COUNCIL WOULD THEN EXAMINE FURTHER THE CYPRUS PROBLEM TO SEE WHAT OTHER MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO SOLVE IT.
KUBISCH

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